

HR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 6:27:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Suellen Barton | Maui Farmers Union United | Support | No |

Comments:

decoite2 - Sara

From: Autumn Ness <ANess@CenterforFoodSafety.org>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:14 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR65 and HR65 with amendments

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Center for Food Safety would like to thank the committee for hearing this resolution.

We support and agree with everything in this resolution except where it mentions increasing compliance with requirements prohibiting individuals from living on ag lands.

Especially in the cases where the farms are legitimate farm operations.

Instead of cracking down on illegal structures on legitimate farms, I strongly feel that we should modify the requirements to allow for those structures.

I know more than a few farmers, personally, who lease state ag land, that struggle with their commute, or paying high rent costs while spending all their waking hours on the farm, or frankly, a few who live in their van, while they are producing some of the highest quality produce at our local farmers markets, and in large quantity. They are struggling, and it shouldn't have to be that hard for them.

Farmers need the option to live on their land. Period.

The farther we move away from allowing that, the farther we move away from diversified/sustainable ag. which according to article 6 section 3 of the Hawai'i state constitution, you have a responsibility to encourage. You cannot encourage ag without mechanisms in place to bring the farmers back to their land.

In cases where the illegal structures are homes for farm laborers, lets figure out how to allow that in a way that won't be abused. Of course we don't want to develop or build permanent "homes" on our state ag land. HCR 76 and HR74, which this committee will hear a bit later today, talks about finding real solutions that will allow our farmworkers to live on ag land, and it specifically includes language that focuses on modular housing. I see that as a PERFECT way to allow people to live on their state leased ag land, while not permanently developing that land.

I understand that there are questions about sanitation/water/waste water that comes from modular homes, and that's why I'm so excited about the task force that would come from HCR 76. There are real solutions to all of those concerns, and all we have to do is sit around a table and talk about how to implement them. Once we do that, we can allow farmers who are producing our food to get back on their land.

For now, I ask that this committee consider amending this resolution to include a section (6) that says something like:

(6) modifying requirements to allow on-farm non-permanent/modular dwellings for farmworkers of working farms that meet certain standards

I also ask that the committee consider including language and really steep prohibitive fines that would prohibit them from being used as short term rentals.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this important matter.

Autumn Ness
Co-Director, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety
808 250 4200

HR-65

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 2:58:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tama Brandenburg | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a small, independent farmer & I support HR65.

Please vote in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Tama Brandenburg

HR-65

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 7:02:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/22/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Donovan | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments: